



**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Application of : Ning Xue et al.  
Appl. No. : 09/460,965  
Filed : December 14, 1999  
Art Unit : 2621  
Examiner : Werner, Brian P.  
Title : METHOD & APPARATUS FOR REDUCING BLOCK  
RELATED ARTIFACTS IN VIDEO  
Attorney Docket No. : LSI 99-222

Mail Stop RCE  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

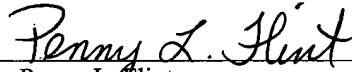
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Penny L. Flint

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Patent and Trademark Office.

Date: July 6, 2004

Dear Sir:

This is in response to the Office Action dated March 5, 2004, for which the three-month shortened statutory period for reply was set to expire on June 5, 2004. In this Response, Applicants have maintained the number of independent claims at four (4) and have increased the total number of claims from twenty (20) to twenty-four (24). Due to

the net gain of four (4) dependent claims, authorization to charge fees of \$72.00 has been submitted with this Response. A Petition and fee are included herewith for a one-month extension of time. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to grant any further extension of time and to charge any additional fees which may be required for this response, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 12-2252.

Amendment to the **Specification** begins on page 3 of this paper.

Amendment to the **Claims** is reflected in the **Listing of Claims** which begins on page 6 of this paper.

**Remarks** begin on page 13 of this paper.

Entry of the Amendments below and consideration of the Remarks that follow is respectfully requested.